

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/102 W

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R 071902Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8835

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 644

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 4105

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: APPROACHES TO THE EC MEMBER STATES

REF: GENEVA 3260

1. WE AGREE WITH GENEVA'S JUDGEMENT (REFTEL) THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HOLD OFF ON IMMEDIATE DEMARCHES IN MEMBER STATE CAPITALS ON THE EC PERFORMANCE UNDER ARTICLE 2 OF THE MULTILATERAL FIBER AGREEMENT. A TRAVELING US DELEGATION WOULD INEVITABLY ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION, COULD STIMULATE STORIES ON US/EC CONFLICT IN REGARD TO WHO IS MOST AT FAULT IN MEETING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MFA AND WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE RESENTED BY MANY IN THE COMMUNITY. EVEN A SERIES OF DEMARCHES BY OUR EMBASSIES IN EC CAPITALS -- IF CAST IN TERMS OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S FAILURE TO MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES -- COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, WASHINGTON MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER
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INFORMAL APPROACHES IN EC CAPITALS, AS WELL AS IN

APPROPRIATE CAPITALS OF OTHER MFA COUNTRIES, IN THE
CONTEXT OF TAKING OUT INSURANCE TO PROTECT THE
MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM AND FEND OFF PROTECTIONIST
PRESSURES. SUCH AN APPROACH COULD INCLUDE REFERENCE
TO THE IMPORTANCE OF BUTTONING DOWN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
MFA. IT COULD NOTE THE POLITICAL STRAINS IN SEVERAL
COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES
WORLDWIDE, AND THE DANGERS WHICH THESE COULD POSE TO THE CONTIN-
UATION OF THE MFA UNLESS THE AGREEMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION IS
COMPLETED SOON.

3. EXPRESSION OF US CONCERN ON GROUNDS LIKE THE FOREGOING
-- WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO CRITICIZE ANYONE FOR THIS PAST
SINS OF OMISSION OR COMMISSION MIGHT GIVE AMMUNITION TO OFFICIALS
IN THE EC AND ELSEWHERE WHO ARE RESISTING AD HOC
PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AND WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE
BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS. AS SEEN FROM HERE, SUCH AN
APPROACH MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE
UK, WHERE PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES MAY BE GROWING. MYERSON

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